

The Illinois Conservation Foundation helps teachers further their own education to benefit the future of Illinois' natural resources.

ENTICE-ing Ecology

Story by Elizabeth Eberlin
Photos from Living Lands
and Waters

“As adults, we recognize that Illinois' natural resources are an invaluable part of our lives,” said Jess Hansen, executive director of the Illinois Conservation Foundation. “To keep this recognition alive, we must pass on to our children an appreciation for wildlife and its management. There is no better way to instill this appreciation than through our teachers.”

Appropriately named, the ENTICE Illinois River Aquatic Ecology workshop attracts teachers with the promise of a day and a half at beautiful Emiquon

National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and Dickson Mounds Museum, both near Havana. Middle and high school educators attend this workshop to learn about the wildlife habitat restoration efforts happening along the Illinois. They attend presentations on the history of sites undergoing habitat restoration, visit several locations to learn about current resource goals and techniques and discuss advantages and disadvantages of management programs with resource experts. In addition to this wealth of knowledge, teachers walk away with continuing professional development units (CPDUs) and free educational materials that allow integration of materials into the classroom—possibly the very next day.

“The aquatic ecology workshop, like all ENTICE workshops, is an opportunity for DNR, and educators, to put something back into the community,” said Valerie Keener, administrator for the DNR's Division of Education. “Teachers can put what they've learned at this workshop immediately back in the classroom.”

ENTICE workshops provide educators hands-on learning experiences while working with resource experts.

The Illinois River Aquatic Ecology workshop will take place June 21-22. For information on this and other ENTICE workshops, visit www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/entice/index.htm or email teachkids@dnrmail.state.il.us.

As teachers visit sites along the Illinois River, Dickson Mounds Museum and Emiquon, it becomes apparent that ENTICE is not just an acronym for Environment and Nature Training Institute of Conservation Education. It is a priceless program by which our educators can obtain an appreciation and understanding of natural resource management—and pass this appreciation on to the rest of us.

The Illinois Conservation Foundation, an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, has raised more than \$20 million to support the programs of the Department of Natural Resources. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. For more information, including details on the grant program, contact Executive Director Jess Hansen, Illinois Conservation Foundation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702, phone (217) 785-2003 or visit www.ilcf.org.



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